(i) determining the presence of a genetic modification in a gene obtained from [a] the subject which encodes a human G protein β_3 subunit;

(ii) in the event the presence of a genetic modification is determined, assigning the subject an increased risk of disease.

32. A method of diagnosing a disorder associated with G protein dysregulation, said method comprising:

(i) obtaining from a subject a gene which encodes a human G protein β_3 subunit;

(ii) determining the presence of a genetic modification in said gene from the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(iii) associating said genetic modification with said disorder.

33. The method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular disease, a metabolic disturbance, and an immunological disease.

34. The method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein said genetic modification in said gene is a substitution for cytosine by thymine at position 825 in SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. The method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein said subject is a human subject.

36. A method for diagnosing an increased likelihood of hypertension in a human subject comprising determining the presence of a genetic modification in a gene obtained from said subject which encodes a human G protein β_3 subunit by comparing said gene to the gene sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said genetic modification is a substitution of cytosine by thymine at position 825 in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the presence of said genetic modification is associated with an increased likelihood of hypertension.